



THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

**Department of Commerce, Community,  
and Economic Development**

**BOARD OF NURSING**

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## **Alaska Board of Nursing Advisory**

### **Botox injections**

### **Registered Nurses & Licensed Practical Nurses**

#### **POSITION STATEMENT:**

Botulinum Toxin Type A is a protein produced by the bacterium *Clostridium botulinum*. When used in medical settings as an injectable form of sterile, purified botulinum toxin, small doses of the toxin is injected into the affected muscles and block the release of the chemical acetylcholine that would otherwise signal the muscle to contract. The toxin thus paralyzes or weakens the injected muscle. This statement refers only to the use of Botox for cosmetic purposes and is not to be construed for any other medical uses or medical setting. Botox is administered as an intramuscular injection into specific muscle groups in the forehead, glabellar area and around the eyes to smooth outlines and wrinkles.

Botox injection procedures are within the scope of nursing for a Registered Nurse and Licensed Practical Nurse provided the following guidelines are followed:

1. The nurse is competent to perform the procedure and has the documented and demonstrated knowledge, skill, and ability to perform the procedure pursuant to the Nursing Scope of Practice.
2. There are agency policies and procedures and any required protocols in place for the nurse to perform the procedure.
3. The nurse is in compliance with licensure or certification by any other regulatory body (other than the ABON) and has met all requirements established by any other regulatory agency which has authority over the procedure.
4. The nurse maintains accountability and responsibility for nursing care related to the procedure and follows the accepted standard of care which would be provided by a reasonable and prudent nurse.

5. Clients have granted informed consent. In obtaining informed consent for a nursing intervention, the nurse shall provide the patient/client/family with the nature and consequences of any procedure, the reasonable risks (if any), possible side effects, benefits, and purposes of the procedure and any alternative procedures available.
6. The use of any of these procedures does not authorize the licensed nurse to diagnose or prescribe.
7. The procedure is not performed independently. It is authorized pursuant to Nursing Standards and Practice and is performed under the direct supervision of a physician/APRN/PA who is present at the site where the procedure is performed and has the knowledge, skill, and ability to perform the procedure.
8. It is within the scope of practice for a registered nurse to execute the medical orders from a licensed physician/APRN/PA. The physician/APRN/PA must be properly trained in cutaneous medicine and surgery and in the administration of Botox for cosmetic purposes.
9. Nurses accepting these orders shall show appropriate training in anatomy of the facial musculature, proper administration, possible side effects, and post procedure care for the safety and well-being of the patient. It is the responsibility of the physician/APRN/PA to be aware of the extent of training and the ability of the nurse to competently perform the injections and meet the standard of care for the procedure.
10. The nurse may administer the treatment only after the physician/APRN/PA has assessed the patient and a plan of treatment has been determined. This plan shall include, but not be limited to the location for injections; dosage, post procedure care and possible follow up.
11. Nurses performing this procedure shall be working under direct supervision of a licensed physician/APRN/PA, who is immediately available on-site, at the time of the procedure for any further consultation and management of any potential adverse events.
12. The RN/LPN is excluded from administering Botox injections to pediatric patients/client (defined as under the age of 18).

### ***Competence Acquisition***

The nurse must acquire education that includes a supervised practicum resulting in a competency evaluation commensurate with the procedure. Components of the education include, as appropriate to the specific procedure, but are not limited to:

- Anatomy and physiology;
- Pathophysiology of the integumentary system and supporting structures;
- Cosmological and dermatologic conditions;
- Wound healing principles;

- Safe use of product/device/equipment ;
- Side effects and management;
- Management of emergencies;
- Patient and environmental safety.
- Training program for healthcare professionals

## **Practice**

Nurses licensed by the Board practice within their scope, are responsible and accountable for their nursing judgments, actions, and competency and do not perform activities outside their scope of practice.

The patient assessment must be performed and documented by a registered nurse and duly authorized prescriber., The performance of the procedure is pursuant to the orders of a duly authorized prescriber. The nurse must verify the orders from a duly authorized prescriber to include the patient's name, valid order date, medication or substance name, dosage, route, anatomical site for administration, specific administration directions and prescriber signature.

It is not within the scope of practice for a nurse who is not authorized to practice as an advanced practice registered nurse (APRN) to medically diagnose, or to prescribe medications or treatments.

It is not within the scope of the RN/LPN who is without APRN licensure and prescriptive authority to:

- select the medication/solution, dosage, device or device setting to be used in the performance of a cosmetic or dermatological procedure;
- purchase or obtain a drug, substance, controlled substance analogue or immediate precursor in any schedule or class to be used in the performance of a cosmetic or dermatological procedure independently or as an agent of the prescriber.

It is the Board's position that nurses whose practice includes Botox procedures may not practice in an organization that does not have policies and procedures that include:

- A requirement for informed consent;
- No patients under the age of 18 years old are to be administered Botox by a nurse
- A requirement for a comprehensive, documented evaluation;
- Recommendations for self care;
- Follow-up recommendations;
- Situations that require referral;

- Management of side effects; and
- Provisions for emergent care.

## **Documentation**

Documentation criteria must include:

- Review and verification of informed consent that clearly informs the patient of the operator's qualifications, licensure, and expected outcomes of the procedure;
- Assessment data inclusive of past medical, surgical, allergy and medication histories;
- Skin typing/classification;
- Sun exposure history;
- Current cosmetic/dermatologic product usage;
- Exclusion from treatment criteria;
- Identification of and evaluation of test site as indicated;
- Specifics of procedure performed and patient response to procedure; and
- Directions for referral back to or consultation with the duly authorized prescriber of procedure.

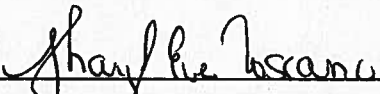
The nurse must document and provide the patient with written pre and post procedure education which includes, but is not limited to, self-care instructions and follow-up recommendations inclusive of continued and emergent care needs.

The Advisory opinion on Botox was adopted by the Board on this date

Joe Lefleur RN presented an Advisory Opinion for Botox to the BON.

On a motion duly made by Wendy Thon APRN and seconded by Joe Lefleur RN and carried with 4 ayes, 2 nays, and 0 abstentions it was

**Moved that the Alaska Board of Nursing accept the Botox Advisory Opinion as amended to include LPN's and require a training program for healthcare professionals.**

  
 Sharyl Toscano PhD, MS, BS, RN-CPN, Chairperson

November 2, 2017